Suspension of Officers of LIC

2492. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two officials of Life Insurance Corporation of India of the rank of Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretary has been suspended in the month of July on the charge of illegal and unauthorised transaction; and

(b) if so, the names of the officials and the details of the charges against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have intimated that they have suspended two officers Shri P. Sridhara Rao, Deputy Secretary and Shri Pradipto Sen, Assistant Secretary on the allegations of illegal and unauthorised transaction in connection with offering shares of Modi Rubber Ltd. in the open offer made by Shri V.K. Modi, Dr. B.K. Modi and others. They are conducting investigation in the matter and appropriate charges will be framed on the basis of the investigation report.

Applicability of reimbursement of Taxi / Scooter charges

2493. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clarification issued by C and AG *vide* its circular No. 189-Audit (Rules) 24-98 (KW) (56) dated the 9th August, 2000 regarding reimbursement of Taxi / Scooter charges to the official while on tour is applicable to areas such as Ghaziabad, Noida, Bahadurgarh, Gurgaon etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The places mentioned above do not fall within Municipality / Urban Agglomeration of Delhi. Hence taxi / Scooter charges are not admissible in terms of extant orders.

Subsidy for foodgrains

2494. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the States have failed to distribute foodgrains given to them by Government at highly subsidised prices, to the people living below the poverty line, involving a subsidy of Rs. 12,500 crores;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government when full utilisation of huge subsidy of Rs. 12,500 crores has not been made; and

(c) what is the estimated subsidy on this account for the current financial year keeping in view the above scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) During the period April 2000 to April 2001, the States had lifted 66.19% of allocation of rice and 51.3% of allocation for wheat for BPL families. Lifting has been high in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Eastern States, but poor or moderate in Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, M.P., Maharashtra and U.P., etc.

(b) and (c) Due to very large volume of procurement of rice and wheat, resulting in an unprecedented stock levels of nearly sixty million tonnes in July, 2001, which is almost 3 times more than the buffer stocks norms as also, reduction in issue price for APL families and Antyodaya scheme, the food subsidy budget may exceed the Budgeted estimate of Rs. 13,675 crore in the current financial year.

Encouragement to insurance coverage

2495. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only two million people are insured in India out of a population of one billion;

(b) whether this is attributed to the fact that most of the population either do not know of schemes or have no faith in them; and